

Week Ending Friday, May 18, 2001

The President's Radio Address

May 12, 2001

Good morning. I wish every mother listening a happy Mother's Day, including my own. And I want to remind every daughter and every son to tell Mom first thing tomorrow how much you love her.

Today I want to talk about how we can meet some of our energy needs through a new kind of conservation, a 21st century conservation that saves power through technological innovation. We are near the beginning of the summer driving and air conditioning season, the months of the year when energy use rises and energy prices jump. This year, like last year, gasoline and electricity prices are rising sharply, squeezing family budgets, and disrupting the lives and work of our fellow Americans. Energy is a problem that my administration will address.

This week we will introduce a comprehensive energy plan to help bring new supplies of energy to the market, and we will be encouraging Americans to use more wisely the energy supplies that exist today.

I am very concerned about the possibility of blackouts in California this summer. My administration will do our part to help by cutting peak hour energy use at Federal facilities in California. Military installations will reduce their peak hour use by 10 percent. Civilian buildings will raise their thermostats and turn off escalators and other nonessential equipment. These are immediate measures to help with an immediate problem, and I applaud the many Californians and Americans who are finding their own ways to use less energy this summer.

Over the long term, the most effective way to conserve energy is by using energy more efficiently. For example, a new refrigerator uses 65 percent less power than a refrigerator built in 1972. Overall, we use 40 percent less

energy to produce new goods and services than we did in 1973.

Some think that conservation means doing without. That does not have to be the case. It can mean building sensors into new buildings to shut the lights off as soon as people leave a room. It can mean upgrading the transmission lines that deliver electricity to your home so less is wasted on the way. It can mean encouraging homeowners to invest in energy improvements.

Twenty-first century conservation harnesses new technology to squeeze as much out of a barrel of oil as we have learned to squeeze out of a computer chip. We can raise our standard of living wisely and in harmony with our environment.

Pushing conservation forward will require investment in new energy technology, and that will be a part of my administration's energy plan. Conservation will require improving appliance standards. That will also be a part of the plan. And conservation will require new incentives to encourage industry to replace outdated equipment. That will be a part of the plan, as well.

But conservation will require one more thing, something that cannot be written into any plan: the problem solving spirit of the American scientist and the American entrepreneur. My administration will take their side as they conserve and expand our energy supply for the benefit of all Americans.

Thank you very much for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9 a.m. on May 11 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 12. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary at 7 a.m. on May 12 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Announcing the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

May 14, 2001

Thank you. You're still the man, Mr. Mayor. *[Laughter]* It's an honor to be introduced by the mayor. One of the reasons why I asked him to sit next to Laura during my State of the Union Address—or State of the Budget Address, I guess—is because of the fantastic work the mayor has done with faith-based programs in Philadelphia. He understands that government is limited. We can spend money, but what government cannot do is put hope into hearts of our fellow citizens. And Mr. Mayor, I appreciate your leadership, and I'm honored that you would welcome me to this great city.

I was thinking coming in that, had things worked out differently, Philadelphia could have been the Nation's Capital. And I would have been calling you, neighbor. And we would have had a baseball team in the Nation's Capital, and it would have been a pretty good one, too. *[Laughter]*

I'm honored to be traveling with the Attorney General, who I'll introduce in a minute. It's a great honor to be with the senior Senator from the State of Pennsylvania—that's Arlen Specter—as well as the junior Senator, Rick Santorum. Thank you both for being here.

And we've got members of the congressional delegation here, as well: Weldon, Hoeffel, and Toomey. I want to thank you guys for coming. We're flying back on Air Force One; I look forward to listening to what you need to tell me. I probably won't do it, but nevertheless, I look forward to listening. *[Laughter]*

I'm honored to be here with the Lieutenant Governor and the attorney general of the great State of Pennsylvania. I'm sorry my close friend the Governor, who's not here, but I understand he's trying to drum up some business for the State of Pennsylvania, so he's got an excused absence.

It's such an honor to be here with leaders of the national law organizations, such as my friend Gil Gallegos from the State of New Mexico, who is the president of the Fraternal

Order of Police. Thank you for being here, Gil, as well as the other leaders.

And most importantly, it's an honor to be here with the men and women who wear the blue, and I want to thank you for your service to your community and to your Nation. And like the mayor, I congratulate those officers who were promoted to corporal. It's a well-deserved honor, and it's fitting that it come on National Police Week.

I want to express my appreciation to all in this city who are involved with law enforcement, and thank you for your skill and your dedication and, most importantly, your bravery on behalf of your fellow citizens.

During the last several years, violent crime in America has been decreasing, and all Americans are grateful. Between 1989 and 1999 the violent crime rate dropped 20 percent. And that's a huge accomplishment. It really is. But unfortunately, American society is still far too violent. The violent crime rate in the United States remains among the highest in the industrialized world.

Nationally there were 12,658 murders in 1999, two-thirds of which were shooting deaths. And for every fatal shooting, there were roughly three nonfatal shootings. And folks, this is unacceptable in America. It's just unacceptable, and we're going to do something about it.

Like most major urban centers—cities—in America, Philadelphia suffered from a stunning rise in violent crime. However, Philadelphia, as the mayor mentioned, has made great progress. For example, in 1990 there were 500 murders; last year there were 319. And the mayor deserves a lot of credit; so does the police commissioner and the police men and women of Philadelphia. And for that, we're incredibly grateful. And we're grateful for programs such as Operation Sunrise, and Safe & Sound, and Youth Violence Reduction Project, which, Mr. Mayor, is making your city more safe and more secure for all of the citizens.

But gun violence is still a serious problem. Three out of four murder victims in this city are shot to death with handguns. Among young victims, that figure rises to almost 9 out of 10. In America today, a teenager is more likely to die from a gunshot than from all natural causes of death combined. These